

SEPT
104 50¢

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI.

MASTER OF KUNGFU

**FIGHT
WITHOUT
REASON!**

*Featuring THE
RETURN OF CAT!*



"Call me Shang-Chi, as my father did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: that my name means 'The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit,' and that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu. Since then, I have learned that my father is Dr. Fu Manchu, the most insidiously evil man on Earth... and that to honor him would bring nothing but dishonor to the spirit of my name."

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

MASTER OF KUNG FU!

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD FROM LONDON I FACE SHEN KUEI, THE DEADLY MAN KNOWN AS CAT...

I REGRET, SHEN KUEI, THAT AFTER COMING TO TERMS WITH YOU IN THE PAST... I MUST NOW DO EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER TO STOP YOU.

INDEED, BRITISHER, EVER SINCE OUR FIRST MEETING, OUR FIRST FIGHT WITHOUT PITY, WE KNEW IT WOULD COME TO THIS, DID WE NOT?

A DECISIVE, FINAL BATTLE-- WITH CLEAR-CUT VICTOR AND HUMBLING VANQUISHED.

YES, THOUGH MY MIND SUPPRESSED IT, I KNEW... WE BOTH KNEW.

EDITOR - JIM SALICRUP

WRITER - DOUG MOENCH

ARTIST - GENE DAY

EDITOR - M. CHIES - JIM SHOOTER

COLORIST - GEORGE ROUSSOS

LETTERER - JIM NOVAK

FIGHT WITHOUT REASON!!

MASTER OF KUNG FU Vol. 1, No. 104, September, 1981. (U.S.P.S. 427-030) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1981 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 50¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate \$6.00 for 12 issues. Canada, \$7.00. Foreign, \$8.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor is a mutilated condition. SHANG-CHI (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. Postmaster: Send address changes to Subscription Dept., Marvel Comics Group, 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

"HONG KONG, ON THE COAST OF KWANGTUNG PROVINCE... CHINA'S SOUTH SEA GATE AT THE MOUTH OF THE HSI CHIANG ESTUARY WHERE, IN TATHONG CHANNEL, A CITY ASEA--A FLOATING 'ISLAND' OF CHINESE JUNKS--HAS BEEN SHATTERED BY THE RISE OF A LONG-DEAD METAL MONSTER..."

"...BY A LEGACY OF THE GERMAN ONSLAUGHT DURING WORLD WAR II..."

"...BY A SUPPLY SHIP BEARING PRECIOUS CARGO, SUNK FORTY YEARS PAST ONLY TO RISE AGAIN..."

"HERE, ABOARD A BARGE NEAR THE SHIP, I FACE THE MAN WHOSE MOOD AND MANNER, AND SWIFTNESS OF SKILLS, RECALL THOSE OF A CAT..."

WELL, BRITISHER?

"...THE MAN WHO HAS RAISED THE BRITISH SHIP."

"LEIKO STANDS BEHIND HIM, HER EYES LIKE STONE."

SHALL WE FIGHT--?

"...WHILE MY MIND SEES A VISION, ETCHED IN FIRE, OF ONLY MOMENTS PAST... HER LIPS TOUCHING HIS..."

"I IGNORE THE CAT."

LEIKO, I HAVE LEARNED FROM TARR THAT YOU NO LONGER CARE TO EXIST UNDER MY SHADOW...

...AND SO I HAVE FOLLOWED YOU HERE, YES, BUT I HAVE LEFT MY SHADOW BEHIND.

"FACING HIM, MY EYES LOOK BEYOND, TRYING TO PIERCE THE STONE..."

"NOT MINE."

YOU KNOW HIM, LEIKO?
YOU *KNOW* THE
BRITISHER--?

YES,
SHEN KUEI, BUT
JUST AS YOU HAVE
LEFT YOUR LOVER
JULIETTE, SO TOO
HAVE I FORSAKEN
SHANG-CHI.

AND JUST AS YOU
HAVE CHOSEN
ME TO TAKE
JULIETTE'S
PLACE, SO TOO
HAVE I NOW
CHOSEN YOU.

LEIKO, I AM HERE NOW.
THERE IS NO FURTHER
REASON FOR YOU TO
PURSUE YOUR MISSION
UNDER THIS RUSE...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT
HE'S TALKING ABOUT,
SHEN KUEI. IT IS A LIE--
A DECEIT TO GAIN THE
SHIP'S SECRET!

"SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A GOOD
SPY, WITH A TALENT FOR ARTFUL
DECEIT.

THEN THE
SECRET OF
THE GERMAN
SHIP IS NOT
THE *ONLY*
REASON
FOR THIS
FIGHT...

"INDEED -- ANOTHER COMPLEX
GAME OF DECEIT AND DEATH..."

"BUT WHY DOES SHE
PLAY IT SO WELL? WHY
DOES SHE PERSIST IN
PLAYING IT AT ALL--?"

YOU HEARD HER,
BRITISHER. NOW LET
US AGAIN SEE AND
HEAR AND FEEL THE
EXPERIENCE OF
FLESH STRIKING
FLESH!

"I AM ASSURED OF OUR LOVE ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT SHE
MERELY *PRETENDS* FEALTY TO HIM FOR THE SAKE OF HER
MISSION -- TO OBTAIN THE SECRET OF THE GERMAN SHIP
RAISED FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE CHANNEL BY HIS MEN..."

YOU
HEARD ME,
BRITISHER...

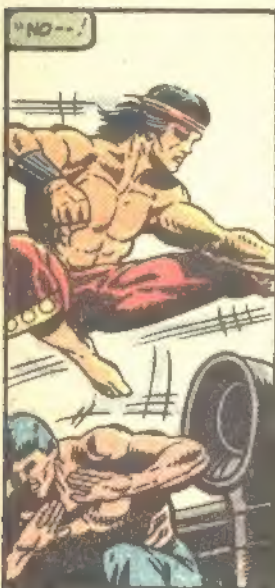
SHWAKT

DEFEND
YOURSELF!

"BUT FOR THE SAKE OF THE INEVITABLE, OF THE COMING FIGHT WHICH CANNOT BE STOPPED, PERHAPS I SHOULD CAST ALL SUCH ASSURANCES ASIDE... AND FOCUS SOLELY ON THE DECEIT OF MY MIND'S EYE..."

VERY WELL, SHEN KUEI...

...WE SHALL FIGHT!



"RAGE HAS NEVER FOUND ITS PLACE IN A TRUE FIGHT. AND HE TOUCHES A NERVE -- I HAVE LOST SOME OF MY FORMER ART... YET, TOO, I HAVE BEGUN TO REGAIN IT."



COME, BRITISHER -- TAKE ME!



"BUT PERHAPS I HAVE NOT REGAINED ENOUGH; PERHAPS I HAVE FORGOTTEN THE EXTENT OF WHAT I ONCE POSSESSED..."



"... AND, IN REGAINING A SMALL PORTION OF IT, HAVE RECEIVED MYSELF INTO ALMOST FEELING WHOLE AGAIN."



"THERE IS NO ANSWER, NO FEELING, IN LEIKO'S EYES."



"ALONE, THEN."

KRUK

"I MUST REALIZE THAT SEEKING REFUGE IN RAGE IS A WEAKNESS..."



"... A CERTAIN PATH TO THE LOSS OF WHAT-EVER I HAVE REGAINED."

SHREPP



"AND SO I MUST FIGHT CALMLY, WITH CONTROL AND COOL RECEPTIVITY..."

WUNK

"... EVEN AS WE USE THE TOOLS OF OUR VIOLENT TRADE -- TOOLS OF WORK, PERVERTED IN PURPOSE, AS WEAPONS."



"STILL THE OTHERS WATCH AND LISTEN AS WE EACH WORK AT THE OTHER'S WEAKNESS, NEITHER OF US FINDING ANY, AND SO BOTH SLIPPING INTO A STAGIS OF STRIKE AND COUNTERSTRIKE..."

"... UNTIL, FINALLY, MY MIND PERMITS ITSELF TO DWELL ON BLACK JACK TARR..."

"HE WAS TO REMAIN BELOW, WATCHING THE WORK ON THE SUNKEN SHIP... BUT NOW THAT IT HAS BEEN RAISED, WHERE IS HE--?"

...SEE WHAT KINDA TROUBLE THE CHINA-MAN'S FOUND THIS TIME.

"UHN! FORGET TARR!"

"FOCUS ON THE MATTER AT HAND!"

BLOODY SHIP SHOT TO THE SURFACE LIKE A BOLT--AND SINCE THE DIVER-WORKMEN FOLLOWED IT UP...

"FOR, LIKE ANYTHING MAINTAINED WITHOUT CARE, STASIS MAY CHANGE."

THIS **MUST** BE THE SECRET CARGO. NOTHING ELSE ON THIS SHIP THAT COULD--

LOOK! CAT IS FIGHTING SOMEONE--ON THE BARGE!

HE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF! JUST LOAD THIS CARGO ABOARD THE SPEED-BOAT--AS WE WERE ORDERED!

...GUESS IT'S SAFE FOR ME TO HIT THE SURFACE TOO...

HSSST-- WU! WHAT THE BLOODY DEVIL'S GOIN' ON HERE?!



BLACK JACK--? IT... IT'S SHANG-- HE'S FIGHTING SHEN KUEI!

KUEI, AGAIN, EH? IT FIGGERS...



AWRIGHT, CAT--FREEZE YER TAIL! THE BLOODY FIGHT'S JUST COME TO A--



WHAT THE--? HAVE YA GONE BLOODY BONKERS, WU?



YOU IDIOT VIXEN! WHAT THE DEVIL DO YA THINK YOU'RE--

TAKING MATTERS INTO MY OWN HANDS, MR. TARR.



NOW... AS BLACK JACK TARR WAS ABOUT TO SAY... THE FIGHT HAS COME TO AN END.

DON'T MOVE, SHANG-CHI.



*NO. IT MUST BE A POSE. I CANNOT DISHONOR OUR LOVE BY DOUBTING HER...

COME, SHEN KUEI, TAKE THE GUN AND--



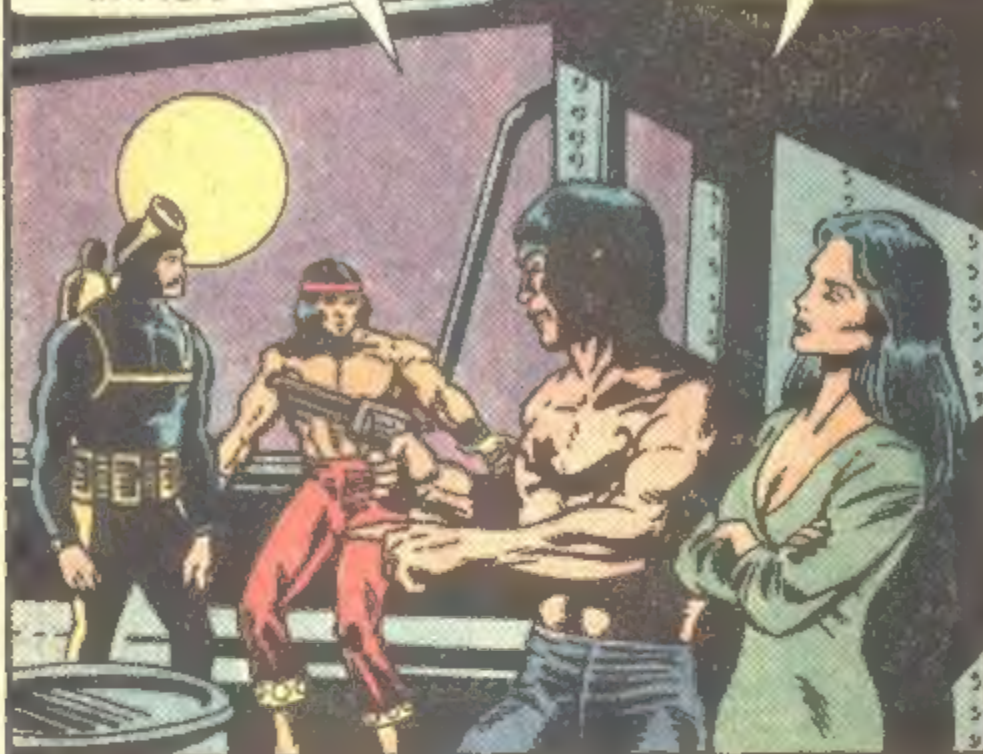
WE HAVE FOUND THE SECRET CARGO, SHEN KUEI! IT IS LOADED ON THE SPEED-BOAT!

THEN BRING THE BOAT HERE-- AND WE SHALL LEAVE!

*STILL SHE MAINTAINS HER POSE, EVEN WHEN TARR'S GUN WOULD HAVE GIVEN US THE ADVANTAGE... UNLESS IT IS NOT A POSE AT ALL, BUT--

A GOOD FIGHT, BRITISHER!
A PITY I MUST NOW CONCERN
MYSELF WITH MORE VITAL
MATTERS...

...OR WE COULD
HAVE ENDED IT
MORE DECISIVELY.



ARE YOU GONNA TELL ME WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE,
CHINAMAN, OR --

NOT NOW,
TARR.

"IT WAS A GOOD FIGHT, AND
SHEN KUEI'S SKILLS TRANSCEND
MY MEMORY OF THEM... BUT
STILL, THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE
THIS TIME...



"DURING OUR FIRST FIGHT ON THE
BEACH, HIS CONTROLLED FIERCE-
NESS SEEMED OVERWHELMING...

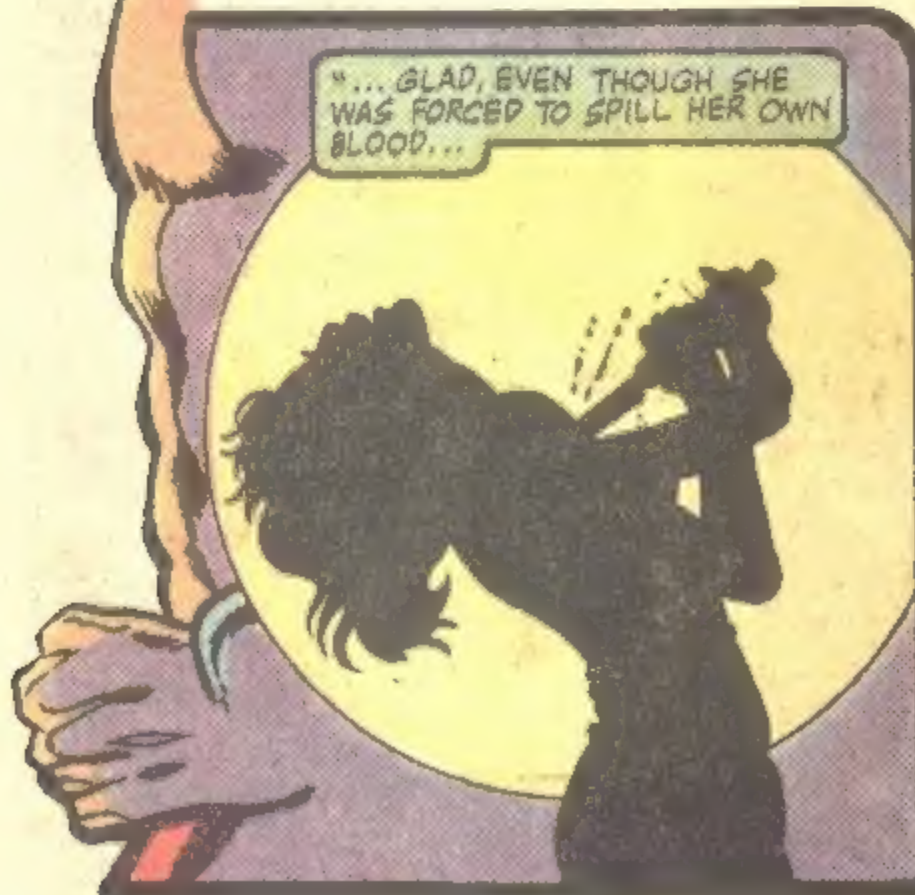


"... TO THE POINT THAT I WAS GLAD
WHEN JULIETTE FINALLY ENDED IT...

STOP! YOUR FIGHT MUST
STOP-- EVEN IF I MUST DIE
TO STOP IT! EVEN IF I
MUST PLUNGE THIS KNIFE--
INTO MY OWN FLESH--
WITH MY OWN HAND--
I'LL DO IT!

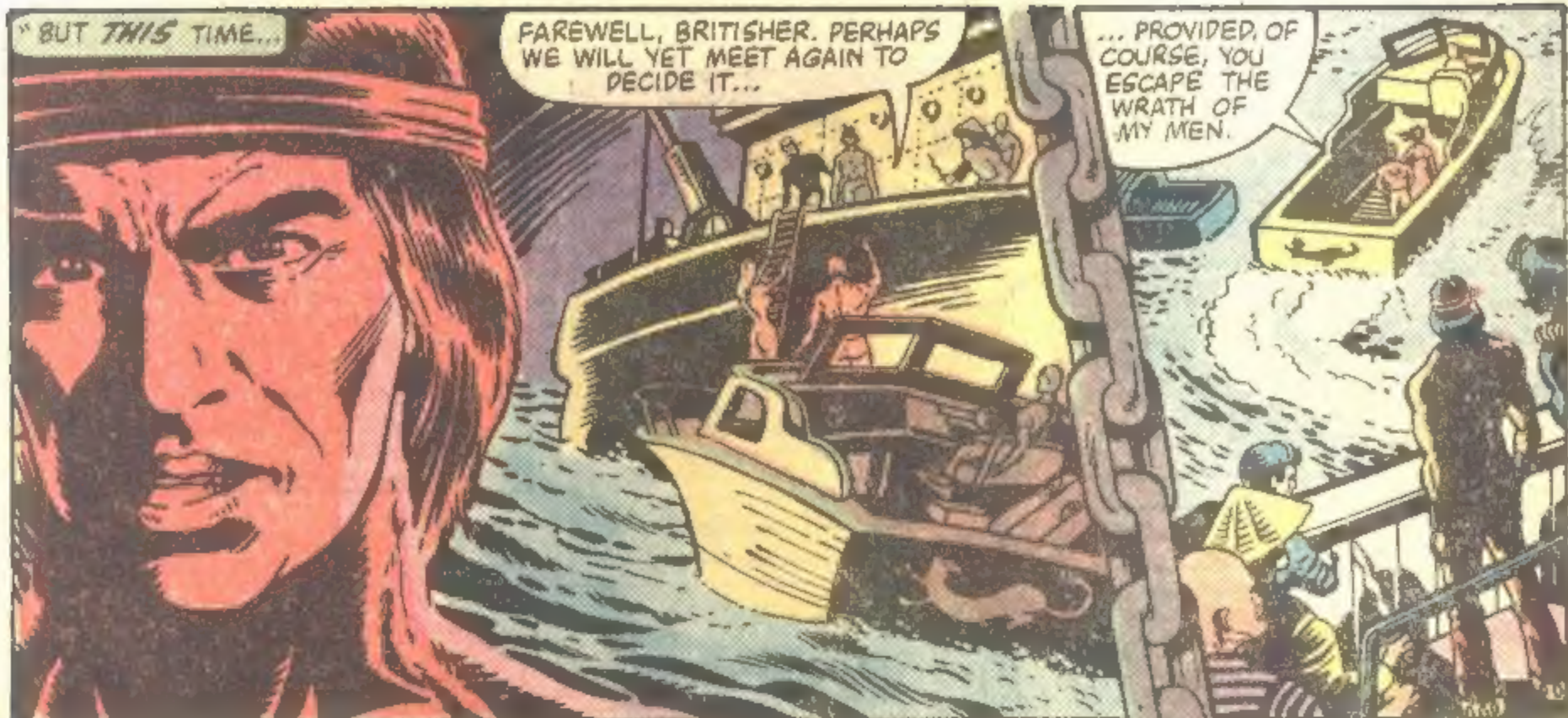


"... GLAD, EVEN THOUGH SHE
WAS FORCED TO SPILL HER OWN
BLOOD...



"... GLAD BECAUSE I HAD NEVER FACED SUCH
A MAN BEFORE-- GLAD BECAUSE I KNEW, DEEP
WITHIN THAT PART OF MY SPIRIT WHICH CAN-
NOT BE REACHED BY SELF-DECEIT, THAT HE
WOULD HAVE WON...





"BUT THIS TIME..."

FAREWELL, BRITISHER. PERHAPS
WE WILL YET MEET AGAIN TO
DECIDE IT...

... PROVIDED, OF
COURSE, YOU
ESCAPE THE
WRATH OF
MY MEN.



AND I HAVE NO DOUBT
... THAT HE WILL.

"... THIS TIME,
NEITHER OF US
KNEW. WITH
CERTAINTY--"



"--WHO
WOULD HAVE
WON."

WELL,
CHINAMAN--?

YES, TARR...



NOW!!

YAAAH!

SHWAK

"WE CLEAR A PATH
TO THE RAIL..."



"...AND DIVE."

THERE!
THEY HOPE TO
ESCAPE IN THE
WATER! TAKE
THEM!

NOT BAD, CHINAMAN!
LIKE I ALWAYS SAY-- WE
MAKE A GOOD TEAM...



BUT WE AIN'T
OUTTA THE SOUP
YET!

THEY'RE
SOUNDIN' THE
ALARM--

--ALERTIN' THE
OTHER JUNKS! WE'LL
NEVER SWIM ALL THE
WAY TO SHORE
THROUGH THIS MAZE
OF BOATS WITHOUT--



CRASH



HERE--
CLIMB
UP!

A
ROPE!

EITHER MANNA FROM
HEAVEN OR A HELLISH
TRAP...



JULIETTE!

QUICKLY--
THEY HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU YET
--INTO THE
CABIN!



"INSIDE, TARR REGAINS
HIS CALM..."

YOU
SAW
SHEN
KUEI
THEN?

AND FOUGHT,
JULIETTE... UNTIL TARR
INTERRUPTED IT.



WAS HE... HURT?

NO. HE MIGHT HAVE
BEEN, AS MIGHT I,
HAD THE FIGHT
REACHED ITS
CONCLUSION.

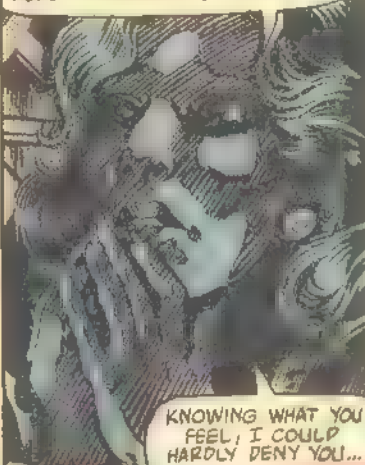
IT DID NOT. NOW HE
HAS GONE, WITH THE
SECRET OF THE SHIP--
AND WITH LEIKO. CAN
YOU HELP ME FIND HER?

LEIKO. THEN HE HAS CHOSEN YET ANOTHER ... THIS TIME, THE ONE YOU LOVE.

AND THE ONE WHO RETURNS MY LOVE. HER LOYALTY TO SHEN KUEI IS BUT A POSE.



OR SO YOU HOPE, SHANG-CHI. BUT PERHAPS IT'S TRUE. PERHAPS THERE IS ONE STRONG, UNSHAKABLE LOVE SOMEWHERE IN THIS BENIGHTED WORLD ... AND YES, I CAN HELP.



KNOWING WHAT YOU FEEL, I COULD HARDLY DENY YOU...

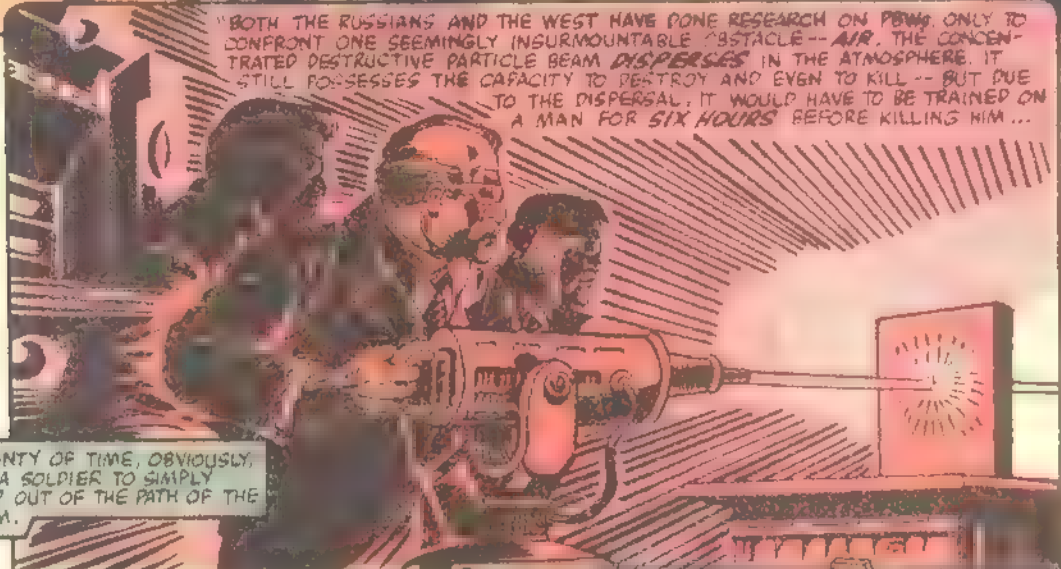
THE "SECRET" OF THE GERMAN SHIP IS THE KEY TO AN EFFECTIVE PARTICLE BEAM WEAPON. DO YOU KNOW WHAT A PBW IS?



NO.

IT IS, OR SO SOME BELIEVE. THE FUTURE OF WARFARE.

"BOTH THE RUSSIANS AND THE WEST HAVE DONE RESEARCH ON PBWs ONLY TO CONFRONT ONE SEEMINGLY INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLE-- AIR. THE CONCENTRATED DESTRUCTIVE PARTICLE BEAM *DISPERSES* IN THE ATMOSPHERE. IT STILL POSSESSES THE CAPACITY TO DESTROY AND EVEN TO KILL -- BUT DUE TO THE DISPERSAL, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE TRAINED ON A MAN FOR SIX HOURS BEFORE KILLING HIM ...



"PLENTY OF TIME, OBVIOUSLY, FOR A SOLDIER TO SIMPLY STEP OUT OF THE PATH OF THE BEAM.

"THE WEST, THEREFORE HAS LARGELY ABANDONED THEIR PBW RESEARCH IN FAVOR OF ADVANCED LASER SYSTEMS-- BUT THE SOVIETS HAVE PRESSED ON, HOPING TO USE THE PBW IN SPACE WHERE THERE IS NO ATMOSPHERE TO DISPERSE AND DILUTE THE BEAM ...

"... AND WHERE ARMED WAR SATELLITES COULD DESTROY UNARMED COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES.



"THE PBW, HOWEVER, IS STILL USELESS AGAINST GROUND TARGETS-- UNLESS THE KEY TO PREVENTING THE DISPERSAL OF THE BEAM CAN BE FOUND.

"IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT THE NAZIS WERE CONVINCED THEY HAD FOUND THAT KEY... DURING WORLD WAR II.

"--THEY DECIDED TO SEND THEIR RESEARCH PAPERS AND THE NEW ZORIUM COMPOUND TO JAPANESE - OCCUPIED HONG KONG FOR SAFEKEEPING.

"IT WAS SUPPOSEDLY A NEW METAL COMPOUND THEY CALLED ZORIUM, AND WHEN THEY FOUND THEMSELVES PRESSED BY THE ALLIES ON ONE SIDE AND THE RUSSIANS ON THE OTHER --

"THE CARGO, ABOARD A DISGUISED SUPPLY SHIP, MADE IT ALL THE WAY TO TATHONG CHANNEL.

"THERE, IT WAS SUNK BY A ROUTINE AMERICAN BOMBING RAID

"EVEN THE JAPANESE DID NOT REALIZE WHAT HAD BEEN LOST."

AND NOW SHEN KUEI HAS FOUND IT. FOR WHOM? THE COMMUNIST CHINESE?

FOR HIMSELF, SHANG CHI. HE WORKS FOR NO ONE BUT HIMSELF NOW, CONDEMNING ALL FLAGS--

HE SOUGHT ONLY TO FIND THE SECRET BEFORE ANY GOVERNMENT COULD-- SO HE COULD DESTROY IT AND REMOVE, AS HE PUT IT, "ONE MORE FALSE, ARTIFICIAL WEAPON FROM MODERN MAN'S WEAK HANDS."

AND WU'S SOLO MISSION-- SHE'S TRYIN' TO GET THIS PARTICLE BEAM SECRET FOR MI-6...

NO, TARR. LEIKO MAY HAVE BEGUN THIS MISSION FOR MI-6, BUT I SUSPECT SHE HAS LEARNED OF SHEN KUEI'S INTENTIONS AND HAS SINCE MADE THE MISSION A PRIVATE ONE -- TO AID HIM IN DESTROYING THE SECRET.

--ALL OF THE MAP'S ARBITRARY AND IMAGINARY BOUNDARIES, ALL GOVERNMENTS.

WHICH MEANS THAT THE FIGHT BETWEEN SHEN KUEI AND MYSELF... IS *TRULY* WITHOUT REASON... FOR I WOULD AID THEM *BOTH*.

"JULIETTE LOOKS AT ME FROM THE SHADOWS OF THE CABIN, HER EYES MOIST AS SHE SPEAKS...

I KNOW YOU WELL ENOUGH, SHANG-CHI, TO BELIEVE YOU. BUT SHEN KUEI NEVER WOULD -- HE STILL THINKS OF YOU AS A PUPPET OF MI-6, OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

NEVERTHELESS, IN THE MORNING, I WILL TAKE YOU TO YOUR LEIKO...

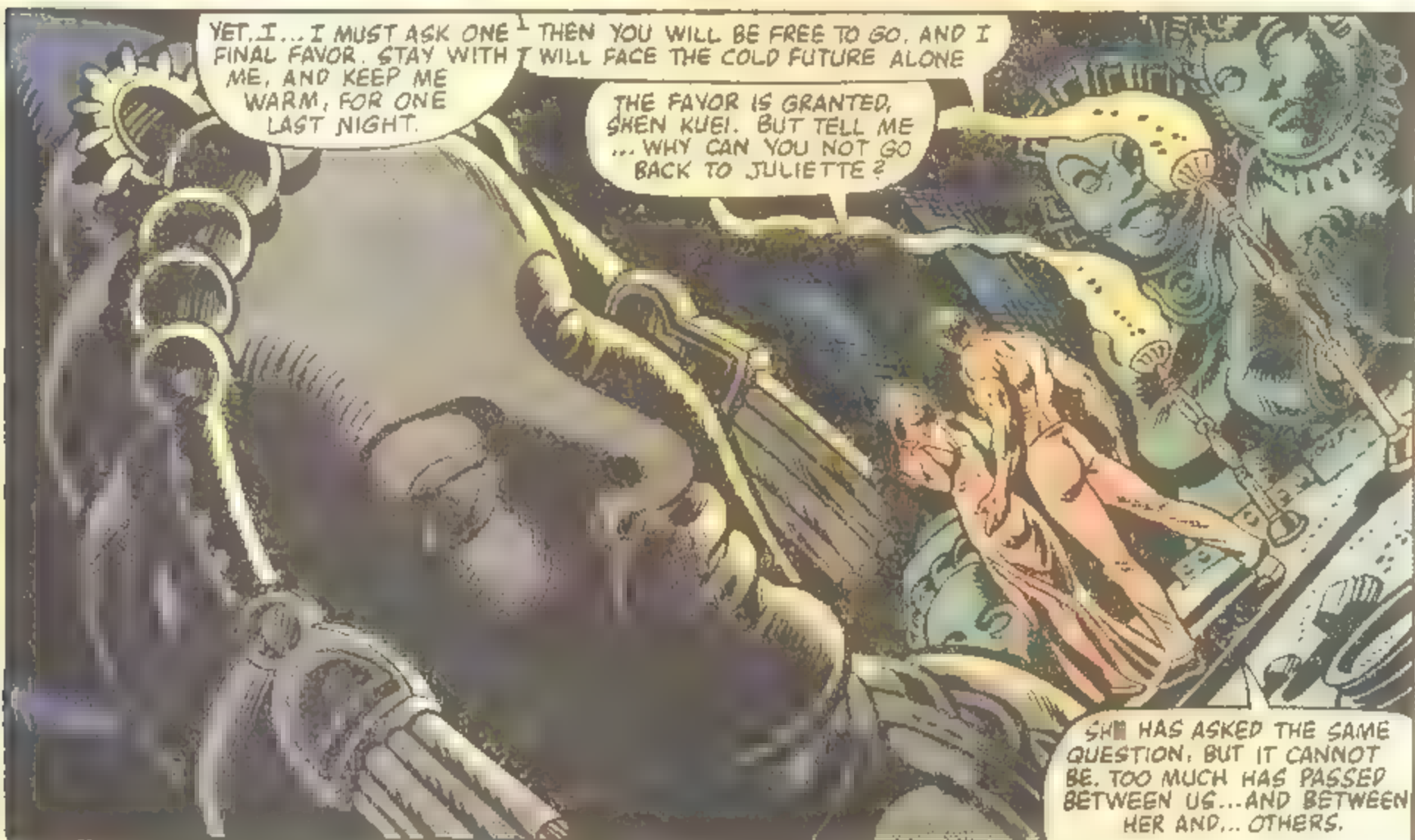
"...I WILL TAKE YOU, THEN, TO THE CRUMBLING HORROR TEMPLE OF TIEN HOU, THE TAOIST GODDESS OF HEAVEN AND LOVE...

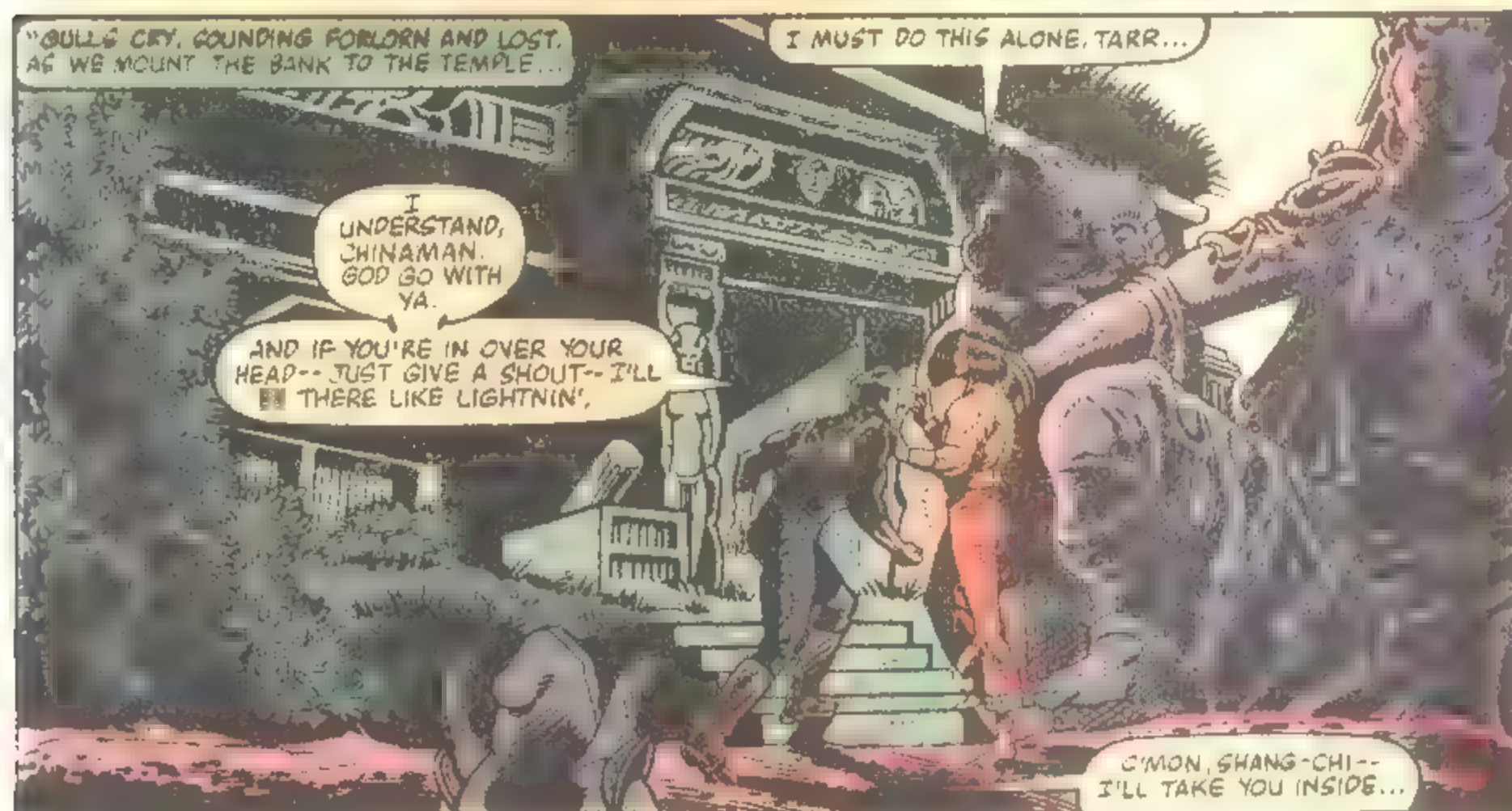
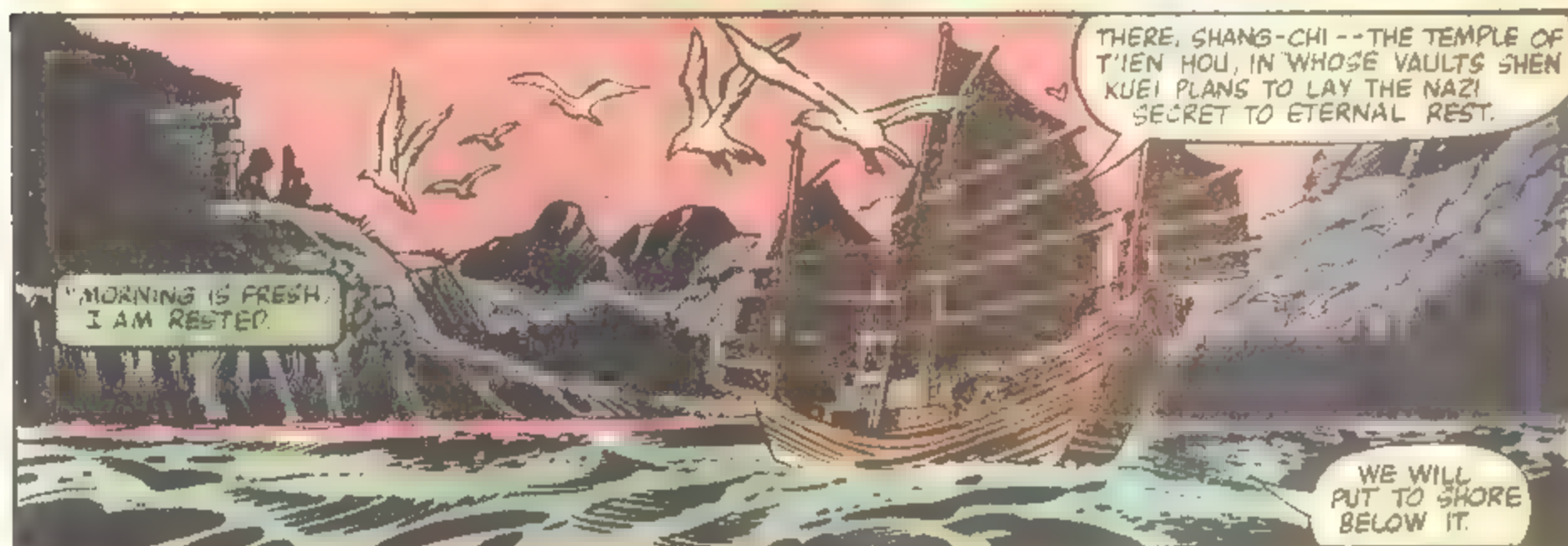
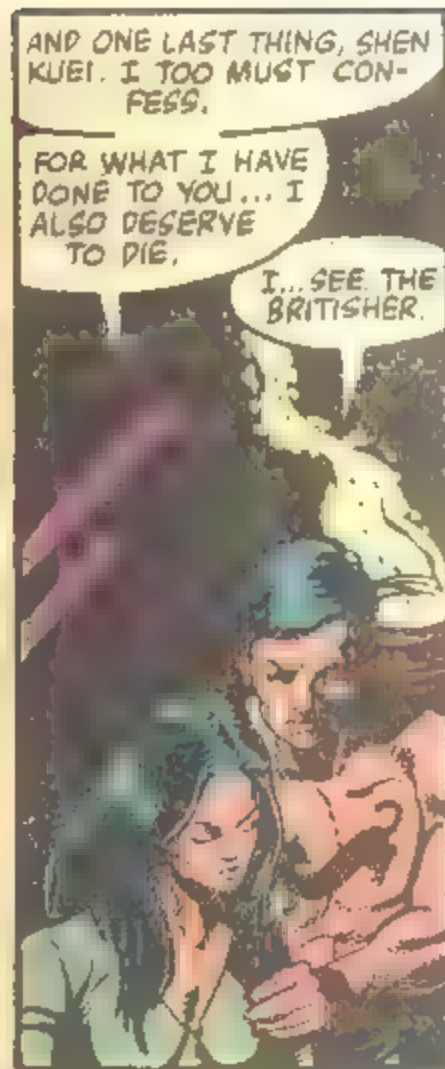
"... AND PATRONESS OF SAILORS ON THE SEA OF FATE."

YOU HAVE BURNED THE RESEARCH PAPERS, SHEN KUEI?

THIS IS THE LAST ONE, LEIKO. AND EVEN NOW DIRECTLY UNDER OUR FEET, MY MEN ARE TAKING CARE OF THE REST...

"... BURYING THE CANNIBALS IN THE TEMPLE'S WALLS."



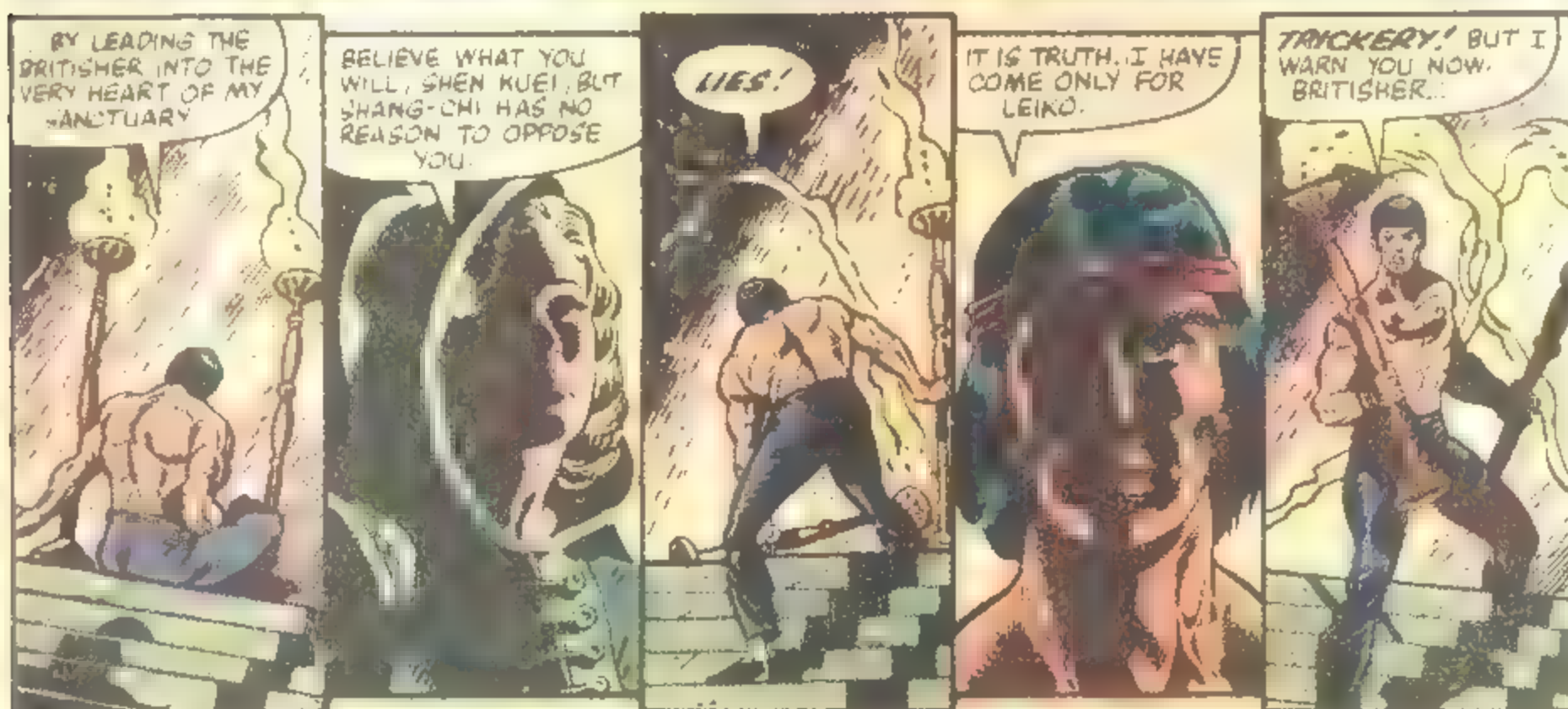




THERE, SHANG-CHI...
ON THE ALTAR...

TULIETTE

THEN YOU HAVE HAUNTED
MY DREAMS... ONLY TO BETRAY
ME YET AGAIN UPON MY
AWAKENING...



BY LEADING THE
BRITISHER INTO THE
VERY HEART OF MY
SANCTUARY

BELIEVE WHAT YOU
WILL, SHEN KUEI, BUT
SHANG-CHI HAS NO
REASON TO OPPOSE
YOU.

LIES!

IT IS TRUTH... I HAVE
COME ONLY FOR
LEIKO.

TRICKERY! BUT I
WARN YOU NOW,
BRITISHER...



NO--!

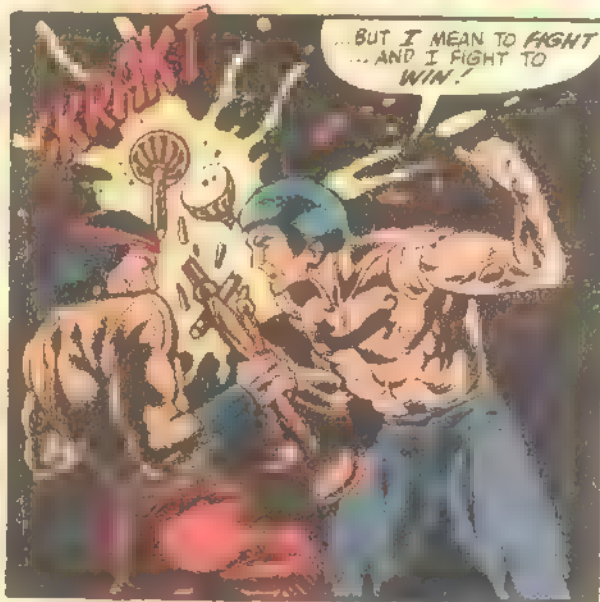
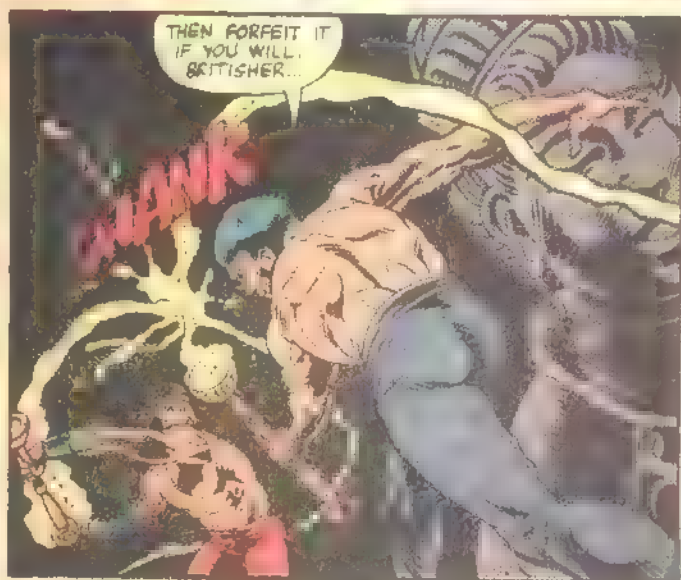
... YOU WILL HAVE TO **KILL** ME
BEFORE YOU CAN DELIVER YET
ANOTHER FALSE WEAPON IN-
TO THE BLOODSTAINED
HANDS OF MI-6!

"I WAS CARE-
LESS! WE FALL."

"AND..."

"HE IS..."

"... GONE."



"I AM AWARE OF THE HARD STRENGTH BENEATH HIS SKIN."

"THE TASK AT HAND IS SIMPLE."
"I MUST FIRST EQUAL HIS
STRENGTH..."



"... THEN
SURPASS
IT."



"... A WEAPON?"



"IT IS ALL BURIED,
LEIKO. OUR WORK
IS FINISHED."

"GOOD. I
WILL GO
UP AND
INFORM
SHEN KUEI."



"SO LATE."

"SHANG--? NO!
AND ALL BECAUSE I
WANTED TO FINISH
THIS MISSION ON
MY OWN!"



"HE ALREADY
HAS A WEAPON--
AND NOW I MUST
SEIZE ONE OF MY
OWN."



"YES! WE ARE AGAIN EQUAL-- BUT NOW I MUST FIND **NEW** STRENGTH TO SURPASS HIS...

STOP! DON'T BE FOOLS! THE CARGO IS GONE-- THE SECRET DESTROYED!

THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO FIGHT FOR!

"AND YET WE CONTINUE, HELPLESS SLAVES TO THE MASTERY AND MOMENTUM AND ARTFUL VIOLENCE..."



"... PREY TO THE FASCINATION OF OUR OWN RUNAWAY SKILLS."

"BRIEFLY, I SEE LEIKO JOIN JULIETTE IN URGENT WHISPERS..."



"... BEFORE I AM FORCED TO SPIN AWAY."



"BUT THE STRUGGLE SHIFTS, AND AGAIN MY EYES GLIMPSE THE WOMEN THROUGH RED HAZE. JULIETTE PASSES SOMETHING TO LEIKO."

"LEIKO NODS FIRMLY."



"AND AGAIN I AM FORCED TO RETURN TO THE TASK AT HAND."

"NOW."

SHRIIP

"YES, NOW! HE IS OFF-BALANCE--"



"IT IS TIME TO--"

STOP! --AND LOOK AT US FOR THE LAST TIME!

I ONCE STOPPED YOU BY THREATENING TO KILL MYSELF, AND I TRIED TO DO SO, BUT MY HAND WAVED ON THE BLADE UNTIL I COULD DO NO MORE THAN PLUNGE IT INTO MY SHOULDER. BUT THIS TIME I HAVE **HELP** -- AND NO CONTROL OVER THE POINT OF THE WOUND!

AND WE **WILL** PULL THE TRIGGERS! LOVE IS THAT IMPORTANT TO US -- MORE IMPORTANT! IT WAS MY PRIDE, IN PART, WHICH CAUSED THIS -- SO PERHAPS I'M **DUE** FOR A FALL! I WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM YOUR INFLUENCE, SHANG -- TO REASSERT MYSELF...

BUT I DON'T WANT TO **LOSE** YOU --!

PLEASE -- DON'T KILL EACH OTHER -- AND DON'T FORCE US TO DO THE SAME!

WE'RE SERIOUS, SHEN KUEI. IF I CAN'T HAVE YOU ALIVE, THEN I DON'T WANT TO LIVE MYSELF.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS STOP THE FIGHT... FORGET YOUR PAST... AND **COME** TO ME...

IT IS TRUE, SHEN KUEI. LIKE THE WARS BETWEEN NATIONS YOU SO DEPISE, OUR FIGHT IS ALSO WITHOUT REAL PURPOSE, REAL ENMITY...

I FORSAKE MY WEAPON, CAN YOU DO LESS?

VERY WELL, JULIETTE...

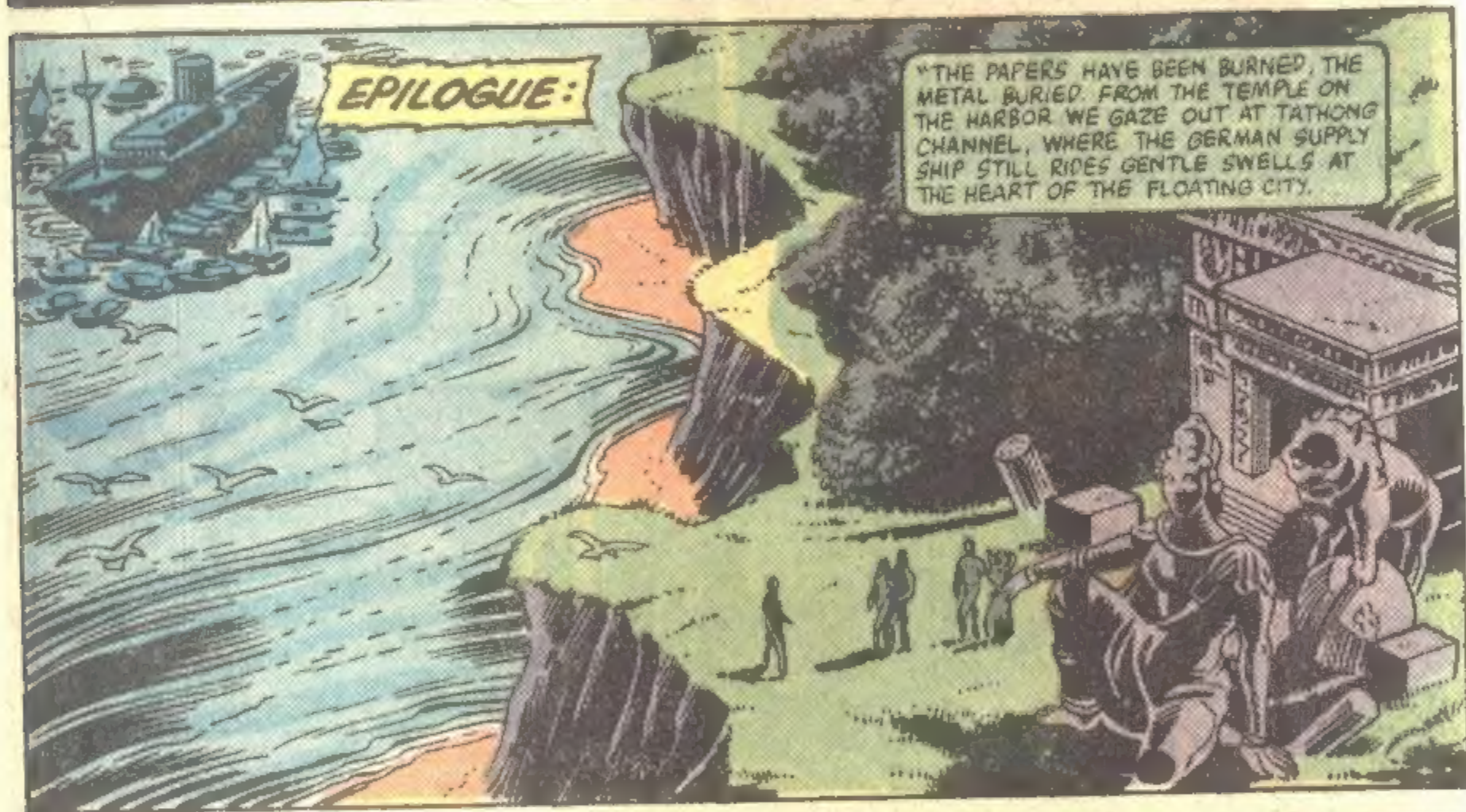
REAL REASON.

PERHAPS THERE IS MORE TO HONOR THAN A MERE CODE... PERHAPS THERE IS... LOVE...

AND SO... I WILL FORGET THE PAST... AND I WILL... COME TO YOU.

"THE SWEAT AND BLOOD HAS BEGUN TO CHILL US... BUT NOW WE TAKE WARMTH FROM TWO OTHERS. ABOVE BLONDE HAIR, SHEN KUEI'S EYE FINDS MINE AND HE SPEAKS...

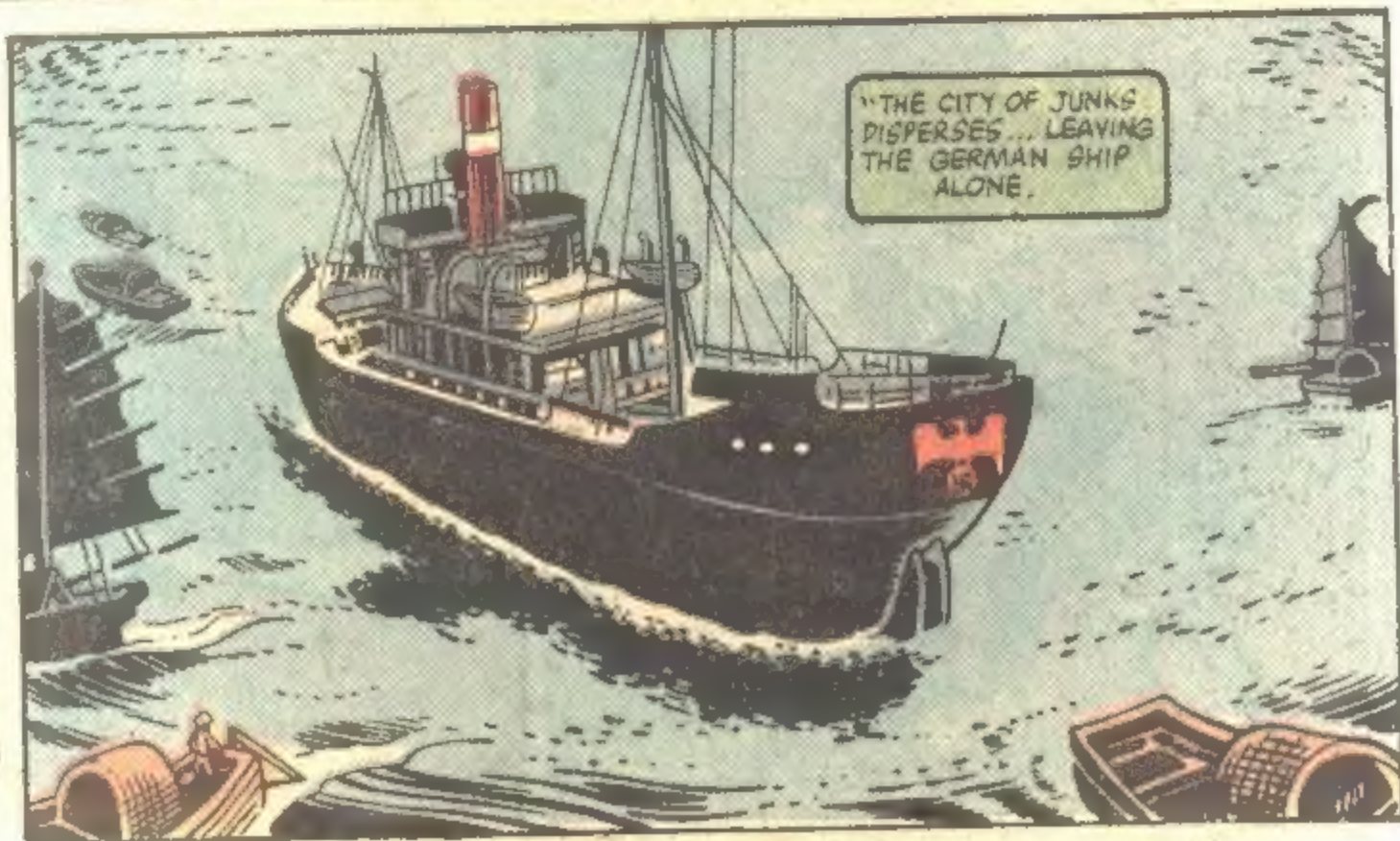
THIS TIME, BRITISHER-- THIS TIME, SHANG-CHI-- YOU WOULD HAVE WON.



"AT CLIFF'S EDGE, SHEN KUEI RAISES ONE ARM.



"THE CITY OF JUNKS DISPERSES... LEAVING THE GERMAN SHIP ALONE.





"FOR LONG MOMENTS IT SEEMS TO TREMBLE."



"THEN THERE COMES A HOLLOW SOUND MADE SMALL BY THE DISTANCE."



"AND THE SHIP SINKS ONCE MORE. ITS SECRET NOW INVERTED... TURNED INSIDE-OUT."

"THE SECRET: IT NO LONGER POSSESSES A SECRET."



"WE LOOK AT EACH OTHER, SILENT... AND IT IS LEIKO WHO REACHES OUT FIRST..."

"... PLACING HER HAND AT THE CENTER OF THE SPACE BETWEEN US."



"WE TOUCH IT... AND, TOUCHING, WE TOUCH EACH OTHER."

"DEEPLY."



"AND WITHOUT A WORD, BECAUSE NO WORD IS SUFFICIENT AND NONE NECESSARY, WE TAKE OUR LEAVE OF THE CRUMBLING TEMPLE OF T'JEN-HOU, GODDESS OF HEAVEN AND LOVE, PATRONESS OF SAILORS ON THE SEA OF FATE..."



"CRUMBLING, YES. BUT FOR ONE BRIEF MOMENT AND FOR FOUR ETERNAL SPIRITS, SHE HAS MENDED... AND MADE HERSELF WHOLE."

"SO WE PART... IN FULLNESS."



NEXT: THE RAZOR-FIST CONNECTION!